GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4042
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Issue of Steel Imports at WTO
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan and some other countries have dragged India to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against certain measures taken by the Government on imports of iron and steel products;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether India has conveyed the reasons to the WTO for these measures including imposition of minimum import price on steel products and its willingness to discuss the issue further;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the WTO thereto; and
(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to mitigate the trade tensions between India and Japan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): Japan has requested the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) for establishment of the Panel in the WTO Dispute DS518 (India − Certain Measures on Imports of Iron and Steel Products) alleging that India's Safeguard Measures on certain iron & steel products are inconsistent with the WTO obligations.

(c) to (e): When the matter was raised by certain Members in the WTO Council for Trade in Goods (CTG), India conveyed that the measures including Minimum Import Price were taken in order to address concerns of the domestic industry on unprecedented surge in imports of steel products due to unfair international business practices such as predatory pricing in the steel sector. Further, India and Japan held bilateral consultations in February 2017 wherein India explained that exceptional circumstances in the steel sector necessitated India to take these measures which are WTO compatible.

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